

The Young Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 8148

廿八百零八年第一月五日

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1884.

年一月二號

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

January 31, OCEAN, British steamer, 1,039, R. R. Brown, Saigon 17th January.
Tung Kee.

January 31, PHRA CHOM KLAO, British str., 1,011, Stratton, Bangkok 24th January.
General—YUN FAT HONG.

January 31, CHOLBERTON, British steamer, 1,733, Clark, Nagasaki 26th Jan., Coal.—SUMMERS & CO.

January 31, HOIHOI, British steamer, 899, Warden, Sydney 8th Jan., and Port Darwin 21st, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE,
JANUARY 31ST.
Folies, British str., for Swatow.
Greyhound, British str., for Hoihow.

DEPARTURES.

January 31, SAGHALEN, French str., for Shanghai.
January 31, FERONIA, German steamer, for Hobart.
January 31, MUNZALEN, French steamer, for Yokohama.
January 31, DOUGLAS, British steamer, for Swatow.
January 31, MARK LANE, British steamer, for London.
January 31, MASSALIA, German steamer, for Saigon.
January 31, RACHNE, British bark, for Tientsin.
January 31, ELSE, German brig, for Tientsin.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.
Per Phra Chom Kla, str., from Bangkok—
8 Chinese.
Per HOIHOI, str., from Sydney, etc.—Three
Europeans and 8 Chinese.
DEPARTED.
Per Douglas, str., for Amoy—Messrs. P.
Karkent and Playfair, for Foochow.—Rev. J.
C. Horne.
Per TEUER, str., for London—Rev. Mr. B.
C. H. Hough and 3 children, Mr. Stodford,
and 2 children (Coksons).

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Ocean* reports left Saigon on the 17th instant, and had moderate wind and very fine weather throughout.

The British steamer *Cholberton* reports left Nagasaki on the 26th instant, and had variable wind from N.W. to S.W. first part; thence to port moderate monsoon.

The British steamer *Phra Chom Kla*, reports left Bangkok on the 24th inst., and had strong N.E. winds first part of passage; latter part moderate monsoon and fine weather.

FOOCHOW SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
14 Taku, British str., from Shanghai.
15 Kwangtung, British str., from Hongkong.
16 Volta, French corv., from Hongkong.
17 Teihin, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18 Taku, British str., for Foochow.
22 Fu-yew, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
23 Namas, British str., for Hongkong.
24 Taku, British str., from Shanghai.
25 Friedland, German str., from Chefoo.
January DEPARTURES.
13 Pochei, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17 Kwangtung, British str., for Hongkong.
18 Teihin, British str., for Shanghai.
20 Taku, British str., for Foochow.
22 Fu-yew, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
23 Namas, British str., for Hongkong.
24 Taku, British str., from Shanghai.
25 Friedland, German str., from Chefoo.

VESSELS ARRIVED IN EUROPE FROM POST IN CHINA, JAPAN, AND MANILA.
(Per last Mail's Advice.)

Gleagle (a.) Shanghai Dec. 7
Nester (a.) Shantung Dec. 8
Escorial (a.) Manila Dec. 10

VESSELS EXPECTED AT HONGKONG.
(Corrected to Date.)

Margoth Penang Sept. 13
Charlotte Penang Sept. 13
Andromeda Penang Sept. 15
H.R.M.S. Minerva, Plymouth Sept. 29
Leda Penang Oct. 1
Aurora Penang Oct. 21
Anna Penang Oct. 21
Constance Penang Oct. 22
Americo (a) Marsilles Nov. 1
Figaro (a) Marsilles Nov. 10
V. de Strasbourg Antwerp Nov. 16
Kangaroo (a) London Nov. 26
Medina Madrid Nov. 26
M. Madrid Nov. 26
Levi C. Wade Cardiff Nov. 29
Emulsion (a) Glasgow Nov. 29
Hebrich Cardiff Dec. 1
Eels Cardiff Dec. 3
Hepawar L'pool via Cardiff Dec. 3
Asia (a) Cardiff Dec. 5
Harter (a) London Dec. 7
Antenor (a) London Dec. 8
Dioned (a) London Dec. 11

THE Undersigned have been appointed Sol. Agents for the Sale of their Goods in Hongkong and China by Messrs. J. & R. TURNER, Glass and Messrs. DAVID CORSB & Sons, Arbitrants.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,
Hongkong, January 1, 1884.

NOW ON SALE.

ROUND VOLUMES of the *China Overland Trade Report* for the Year 1883.

PRICE TEN DOLLARS.
Apply at the Daily Press Office.

BOOKBINDING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

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HOUSE AND ESTATE AGENTS,
RENTS COLLECTED,

BROKERAGE CO.,
UNDERTAKERS,

MOURNING STATIONERY, &c.,

MONUMENTS ERECTED,

6. QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

T. E. CHUNG NGOI SAN FO
(Chinese Body Press),

PUBLISHED DAILY,

Is the best medium for Advertising among the Native Community.

It has been established upwards of TWENTY YEARS, and enjoys the largest *bold* circulation of my Class paper in the Southern Cities. It is specially well adapted for educated Chinese Scholar, and contains FOLIO and BI-LINER COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Terms for Advertising can be obtained at the Office, Wyndham Street, Hongkong; or from the different Agents.

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THE PATENT.

FILTRE RAPIDE

Removes all Organic and Inorganic Impurities, Lead, Copper, and Poisonous Gases.

It filtrates the Water.

It can be taken to pieces and cleaned in every part.

It has been awarded

Special Medal of Merit by the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain.

Silver Medal National Water Supply Exhibition, London.

Two Silver Medals International Food Exhibition, London.

Two Certificates of Merit by Sanitary Institute, Exeter.

Certificate of Merit International Medical and Sanitary Exhibition, Koenigsberg.

Silver Medal Health Congress and Scientific Exhibition, Brighton.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

4th January, 1884.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

ON and after the 1st October the PRICE of ICE will be reduced to 14 Cents per Pound.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers.

17th September, 1883.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

AS the Post of SECRETARY in the Company is about to become vacant, Applications for same will be received at the Head Office up to 1st February next.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

Wm. REINERS, Chairman.

4th January, 1884.

AGENCIES ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN CHINA IN 1847.

CUTLER, PALMER & Co., WINE SHIPPERS, call attention to some of the Specialities they have to offer to China, viz.:—

Their Old *** COGNAC; quality never varies any more than does their *** COGNAC quality.

Their own Blend of SCOTCH WHISKY, Hiram's, Hiram's, Hiram's.

Their genuine PORT for Invalid's use.

Their SHERRY, which maintains a good repute.

Their CLARETS, as produced in the vineyards.

The ROYAL CHAMPAGNE, used by Her Majesty the Queen.

These among other items are always to be had at the Godowns of our Friends.

GEORGE, MATHESON & Co., Hongkong and Shanghai.

DANE, CRAWFORD & Co., Hongkong.

We maintain quality, and our prices are consistent therewith and at the same time reasonable.

3096

KELLY AND WALSH'S

LIST OF NEW MUSIC.

Pen and Pencil Waltz.—J. Lee.

Myriads Waltz.—Caroline Loebell.

Distant Lands Waltz.—Oscar Sydor.

Down Day Waltz.—Bacalossi.

Match about Nothing Waltz.—J. M. Ball.

Kiss Waltz.—Meyer Lutz.

Son Alteza Waltz.—Edgar de Valmy.

Min. Canto Waltz.—Bacalossi.—Composer of

Mr. G. P. Poli.

White Lillies.—W. Fullerton.

Fantinian Waltz.—H. R. H. The Duke of Albany.

Flower d'Amour Waltz.—J. L. Roselli.

Le Adoreur Waltz.—E. de Valmy.

Scintillante Waltz.—Waldemar.

Marina Waltz.—Waldemar.

Eliza Waltz.—Edgar de Valmy.

SONGS.

I Will Come.—T. H. Cowen.

The Southern Breeze.—W. M. Hutchison.

Never To Know.—Theo. Marzilli.

N.H.—All the Newest Music received immediately after publication.

JUST PUBLISHED.

Williams' Middle Kingdom—2 Vols., almost entirely rewritten.

Giles' Gems of Chinese Literature.

KELLY & WALSH—HONGKONG.

NOTICE.

H. CAMPBELL, late of Foochow, has the honour to inform the Gentry and Public of Hongkong that he has OPENED A FIRST CLASS HAIR-DRESSING SALON at BANK BUILDINGS, opposite the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. CAMPBELL's assistants are thoroughly experienced in their business, the hair being dressed in the latest French establishments, while the ladies have for many years been connected with Mr. W. P. MOORE's establishment in Hongkong. Mr. CAMPBELL's hair, by strict attention to the wants of the public, to merit a share of their patronage.

Patented January 24th, 1884.

TO BE LET.

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

HOUSE No. 50, in UPPER PEEL STREET.

Apply to BELLIOS & Co.

28th January, 1884.

TO LET.

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

HOUSE No. 50, in PEEL CENTRAL.

Apply to C. P. CHATER.

1st January, 1884.

TO LET.

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

HOUSE No. 50, in PEEL CENTRAL.

Apply to C. P. CHATER.

1st January, 1884.

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Apply to C. P. CHATER.

1st January, 1884.

TO LET.

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

represented only forty yen in silver. Now, with a volume of over four times as large, the superiority of silver was practically unrecognized. But if the people gave themselves little concern about the Government's inability to pursue its present policy, they were equally indifferent to the new bonds. These, found so few purchasers that in nine years scarcely five millions were disposed of. The reason of the unpopularity of these securities was not far to seek. They were in no respect a definite instrument for the resumption of specie payments. Such an instrument must be an actual tool of exchange; a cheque payable to bearer and transferable without discounting. The bonds issued by the means of this system, the nominal holder of which was registered, and to him alone were the interest and principal payable. In a word, to purchase these bonds a man must have been prepared to take the risk of losing the use of his capital for fifteen years, receiving in the interim interest considerably below the market rate. It is true that, shortly afterwards, the Satsuma Rebellion, by recalling the circumstances under which no notes had first made their appearance and their value, removed all doubt concerning the soundness of the new bonds. These, however, were established with an interval between the purchasing powers of Kinmen and silver. The specie bonds then presented some very attractive features to speculators, but to speculators only. They had no appreciable effect, nor could they have any, on the mass of the note-holders. They did not in any degree help to restore Kinmen to the place it had lost many years before, and the Government's inability to resume its pledges. What follows is too familiar to need much comment. Industry and enterprise were crippled by a medium of exchange so unstable that it defied all calculation, while Japanese financiers confined themselves to speculative attempts to bolster up the credit of their notes—attempt which unconcerned gamblers and traders ultimately failed to furnish the market. Fortunately for the country, the fatal policy was not adopted. The Finance Department, under new management, adopted a new programme, the three principal features of which were—to restrain all speculative operations of exchange; to reduce the bulk of the Kinmen in circulation; and to accumulate a reserve in the Treasury for the ultimate resumption of specie payments. These measures, steadily pursued, have produced the result that, during the two years the fiduciary currency has risen from a discount of 27 until it now circulates at a value only 8 per cent. less than that of silver. True, there are critics who pretend to believe that this is all unreal, referring it to some occult official devices for "hushing" specie. But the veracity of such writers have no longer, we presume, any interest for rational men. Even, however, to a general reader, the truth goes to show that the restoration of Kinmen is real, and the inflation referred to at the commencement of this article indicates the first definite step towards the resumption of specie payments.

We venture to refer here to some words of our own published in these columns eight months ago. We wrote:—"It seems to us that the course to be pursued is very clear. Return to specie payments must be effected by a series of redemption. The time for stoppage of the issue of notes having been exhausted, the amount of, say, thirty million yen, there should be redeemable with silver in thirty years (the quantities, period, &c., have mentioned above, of course, arbitrary) by annual sums of two million yen. The bonds might be slightly different in form from the notes at present use, but they should be manufactured with a careful regard to convenience of circulation. Those bills to be liquidated at par would be redeemable in one year or even three times per annum, the successful holder being payable in silver on demand." The principal features of this suggestion are easily produced in the scheme now announced by the Minister of Finance. The "Redemption Bonds" are to bear an annual interest of six per cent. payable in specie; they are not to be registered or to carry the name of their holder, but to be handed over like ordinary bank-notes; they are to be of three denominations, one hundred, five hundred, and a thousand yen, when they are to circulate for five years unredeemable, and then to be redeemed yearly drawing extending over a period of thirty years.

The immediate effects of this measure will probably be almost imperceptible. As an investment, the Redemption Bonds offer no noteworthy attractions. Among foreigners there are not at all likely to find a market for the products of commerce, nor is the interest offered sufficient to attract the capitalists. What may be expected, however, is that they will to some extent take the place of Kinmen of large denominations, since they will be equally convenient as instruments of exchange and more valuable on account of the interest they bear.

But the idea of spending this currency they cannot fail to impress itself on the public. Should circumstances tend to bring about a depreciation of the notes, the Redemption Bonds will immediately be preferred as a circulating medium in all the larger transactions of trade. Further, their issue marks the Government's first practical acknowledgement of its liabilities, and at the same time establishes a tangible relation between Kinmen and metallic money. These are points of great importance. Disappointment will be avoided in the quarters that a mere fiscal measure is not a safe bet, nothing is more to be deprecated in this currency than precipitancy. The contraction of the currency has already been carried on with dangerous rapidity, and for the present the efforts of the Finance Minister may wisely be limited to improving legibility. What is wanted is not to withdraw Kinmen from circulation, but to make them exchangeable for, and therefore of equal value and stability with, specie.—*Japan Mail.*

NAVIGATION IN FOGS.

Mr. Justice Butt has done some service in once more directing attention to the "Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea." Article 16 of the old rules prescribed that every steamer, when approaching another ship so as to run the risk of collision, shall slacken her speed, and if necessary stop, if time permits. The regulations of 1839 supplement those issued in 1802 by making it incumbent on the part of these in sailing vessels, as well as steamers, to take precautions in thick weather. Unfortunately for the safety of navigation and the interests of shipowners, this measure of safety is not complied with, and hence collisions take place, which could have been avoided were the statutory regulations followed. To detect and prevent from violation of the law, the list of ships and aggregate losses in which they are involved are quoted to show the lamentable results of life at sea. The case which has called forth these remarks is that of the collision between the *Edith* and the *Dordogne*. These two steamships collided ten or twelve miles off Ushant, and the *Edith* sank shortly after the mishap. The *Edith*, it was said, was proceeding at half-speed, and the *Dordogne* had stopped just previous to the collision. The Court did not give any credence to the statements as respects speed, but concluded that they were both going through the water at a greater rate. It was very foggy at 5.30 a.m., when the disaster occurred, and though the ships were within the range of Ushant light it had not been observed. As a matter of fact the vessels did run into each other, although it is illegal to do so, and, if time permitted, to stop. Mr. Justice Butt, in giving his opinion, held that vessels should, as near as possible, be brought to a standstill in a fog. As neither of the ships was brought to a standstill or anything like it, the learned Judge held both vessels to blame, and his justification of this procedure quoted the decision of the Kereval case, and the dictum of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to the effect that, on hearing the approach of another vessel, each vessel must stop only to have stopped, but to have reversed until its way was stopped, when it could have halted and ascertained with certainty which way the head of the other vessel was, and which way she was proceeding, and by that means the collision would have been avoided.

If two steamships approach each other from opposite directions, and the whistle is not heard, the vessel which is to give way must stop, namely, the vessel which is to give way, unless she should be bound by a prolonged blast, when they should be heard in almost all conditions of weather. But meeting steamers get within striking distance very rapidly, and if the sound of one whistle drowns the opposing steamer, they may get into dangerous proximity, so perilously close indeed that a collision is

almost a certainty before the true state of affairs is discovered. It is known on board a steamer that she is necessarily approaching another, the master does not control her to do what Mr. Justice Butt declares ought to be done. The *Edith* does not insist upon vessels stoppage in a fog, but only that they shall go at a moderate speed."

We take the evidence to be conclusive that in this disaster to the *Edith* her whistle was heard, and on board of her also heard that of the *Dordogne*. What distance the whistles might have been heard, and the exact moment in question was not deplored upon the record of the wireless, as there was a certain time for the forward, it would be of the last.

Had those in command of the two steamers acted prudently, they would have ordered the engines to be stopped, and though this sensible size a collision might not have been avoided, the blow delivered could not have been so destructive as it proved. In several collisions in the Channel the engines have been stopped, but reversed. The vessels were then checked sufficiently and simultaneously to avoid collision. Steam whistles are powerful enough to be made out, under favourable circumstances, quite soon enough to enable an impossibility if those in charge are actuated by the same determination to carry out that proviso in the regulations which says that one of three things shall be done, and that is exerted upon the *Edith* (see page 3) reverse. The *Edith* planned to adopt, in thick weather, a plan to stop, if time permitted, a signal is heard within apparently short distance, to stop the engines. This is the view which Mr. Justice Butt takes of the collision between the *Edith* and *Dordogne*. Admitting that they were steaming slowly, and proceeding in a cautious manner, they did actually collide, which is proof that good and sufficient care was taken of the collision which took place so quickly after the whistles were made out. Readers of this journal will not have to be reminded of our persistent efforts to enforce this law of comparative safety on masters of ships. The majority of collisions happen through steamers running towards vessels at full speed, as fast as they can go, leaving no chance of cutting out of a sudden difficulty. The *Edith* was, when she ran into the *Dordogne*, in the middle of the night, and was not likely to stop in time to avert the disaster. They consider that when there is as much danger of being run into as there is of running into another, the best course is to stop.

7.—In the table, taken from the *Almanac*, see "Instructions for making Meteorological Observations in China" (*Almanac and Weather*, Hongkong).

W. DOBBOK.
Hongkong Observatory, 31st January, 1884.

VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAME	CAPTAIN	AT	FOR FREIGHT APPELLED TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
HAMBURG, via SUEZ CANAL.	Saint Ilona	Durrard	Hongkong	Carlowitz & Co.	Quick despatch.
LONDON, via SUEZ CANAL.	Neptunia (str.)	J. Heege	On 5th Feb.	P. & O. S. N. Co.	At 4 P.M.
SAN FRANCISCO.	Bellona (str.)	Billings	On or about 13th Feb.	Butterfield & Swire	On or about 15th Feb.
SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.	Salem (str.)	Fowler	Hongkong	Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.
SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.	Tanagado (str.)	Hyder	On 14th Feb.	Gibb, Irvington & Co.	On 14th Feb.
SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.	Wooing (str.)	S. G. Green	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 14th Feb.
BATAVIA, SAMARANG, &c.	Eurisko (str.)	Hunt	On or about 7th Feb.	Carlotti & Co.	On or about 7th Feb.
COMPAGNIE MARITIME.	Compte (str.)	Kreuter	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 7th Feb. at Noon.
YOKOHAMA AND HIIGO.	Kashgar (str.)	Levius	On 7th Feb.	Russell & Co.	On 7th Feb. at 4 P.M.
NAGASAKI AND KOBE.	General (str.)	Macques	Hongkong	P. & O. S. N. Co.	On 7th Feb.
MANILA.	Drummond (str.)	Macrae	Hongkong	Bray	Quick despatch.
SWATOW, AMOY, & FUHOU.	Don Juan (str.)	Marshall	Hongkong	Butterfield & Swire	On 7th Feb.
MANILA.	Esmeralda (str.)	Metcalfe	Hongkong	Brandis & Co.	To-morrow, at 6 P.M.
SWATOW, AMOY, & FUHOU.	Pitman (str.)	Pinckney	Hongkong	Russell & Co.	On 13th Feb., Daylight.

METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

	Previous	On date	On date	On date
	at 4 p.m.	at 10 a.m.	at 4 p.m.	
Barometer	30.01	31.17	30.92	
Temperature	62°	63°	62°	
Humidity	91	85	84	
Direction of wind	NE	NE	NE	
Force of wind	4	0	0	
Weather	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	

11th May, 1884.

INSURANCES.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Unsigned Agents for the above Company, are prepared to insure against GRANT POLICIES upon First-class Rates to the extent of £15,000, at the Reduced Tariff Rates.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.

11th May, 1884.

NOVEL BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned Agents for the above Company, are authorized to accept FIRE RISKS at Current Rates.

BIRLEY, DALRYMPLE & CO.

Hongkong, January, 1884.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

The Undersigned Agents for the above Society, are authorized to accept FIRE RISKS at Current Rates.

SHANGHAI VIA AMOY.

SIEMSEN & CO.

Agents.

13th November, 1872.

INSURANCES.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to insure against ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

BIRLEY, DALRYMPLE & CO.

Hongkong, January, 1884.

GUARDIAN INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON.

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SHANGHAI VIA AMOY.

NIKKO, CHINFAO, NEW YORK, & PORTSMOUTH.

TRINIDAD, HANLOW, AND PORTS ON THE YANGTZE.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMSHIP.

STEAMSHIP.

NOTICE.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at the Reduced Tariff Rates to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

LINSTEAD & DAVIS.

Agents.

12th May, 1884.

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE at the Reduced Tariff Rates to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

HO SHEN CHEE.

Secretary.

HO SHEN CHEE,

Secretary.

Head Office, Hankow Road,

Shanghai, 1st June, 1882.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF 1877.

THE MAN INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

CAPITAL (SUBSCRIBED) \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LUM SIN, SANG, ETC.

BAW HUP, ETC.

YOUN CHENG PENG, ETC.

CHAI LI CHOW, ETC.

WU LIN YUEN, ETC.

SHANGHAI.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 2, Queen's West,

Hongkong, 14th March, 1881.

FOR SALE.

THE VALUABLE BUSINESS PREMISES

OF W. H. GIBB, CHAMBERLAIN & CO.,

AND DWYER.

The Company GRANTS POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World, payable at any of its Agencies.

Contributory Dividends are payable to all Contributors of Business, whether they are Shareholders or not.

WOO LIN YUEN,

Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,

London, 1st June, 1882.

EXTRACTS.

YULETIDE.

Sea, stretched across the hill-top and the field,
The winter snow, as white as angel's wing,
When all the season's footprints lie concealed,
When the flowers are dead, to breathe again in spring
See, stretching o'er the narrow, cheerless lanes,
The laurel branches of the leafless trees;
Hark! how the wild winds tolls at winter eulogies
In all her beauty, pleasure, and distress.

This is the yuletide! Bring the holly boughs,
Deck the old mansion with its berries red;
Bring in the mistletoe, that loves' vow!

Be sweetly sealed the white hems hang abroad,
Pho on the logs, fresh gathered from the wood,

"And let the bright day pass upon the walls,
While we tell the stories of the good,

The brave, the noble, that past recalls.
Again the barrier is wide open to us,
The oak beams fastened with the gun-lords gay;

The red ride, where the soldiers sit alone;
Where, flushed with the good old times they play.

Strike, soldiers, strike! we're ready for the set;

The young folks' feet are eager for the dance;

And rove in the latest games from France.

The yuletide cards! Listen to the strain
That tells the story of our Saviour's birth,

Feasting down the valley and the plain,

Dying away across the snow-white cards;

And in the still silence of the night

We'll awake, and hear those happy words

That bring the roses glad, doth,

And wake again affection's stirring chords.

But, in this season of delight, are there

No wayward ones to pity or care?

Amid the pleasure, lurches not despair;

That comes to wound the spirit—not to blest?

Does not the bitter eye of wounding poor

Touch your will, happy, beating heart to-day?

Hast thou not seen the bazaar of thy day?

And marked the withering faces of decay?

This is the yuletide! Play the kinder part,

Anb the Lady Doubtful, and care

The sinking sorrow of the hopeless heart,

Alleviate the first-fruits of disease.

Then shall your joy be greater, and your cheer

Tenfold for all the goodness you have done.

And He who loves me by this day revere

Shall bless the land that helped the friendless one.

WILLIAM H. ADAMS, in Public Opinion.

THE EXILES OF SIBERIA.

The "Times" Paris correspondent has received the following communication from a trustworthy source:—"A short time ago some officials employed at the fort and prison of Peter and Paul at St. Petersburg were arrested on suspicion of complicity with the nihilists. Corresponding with this occurrence, but not necessarily connected with it, is the receipt of two letters from political prisoners confined in this fortress. Some of the details contained in the first of these letters have already been published. The second document, of great length, though written throughout with the prisoners' blood, has just been communicated to us by one of the most prominent and influential nihilist leaders. The letter is a description of the prison life endured by the nihilists condemned to hard labour and confined in the Trebetskof Bastion. A lengthy account is given of the prison life which is often mouldy, sometimes in a state of putrefaction, and never sufficient. Dysentery and scurvy soon ensue, reducing the strongest to a state of the greatest prostration. But there is no difference of treatment in favour of the sick. Of the two doctors attached to the prison, the youngest alone enters the cells, but he is afraid to touch the patients, he dare not feel their pulses, and the few medicaments he ventures to possess are usually countermanded by the senior surgeon. To the complaints of the prisoners he generally answers that there is no remedy possible. In the prison the strongest soon become amastic, and those who are too feeble to rise for the common necessities of life are not provided with the ordinary appliances used for the sick, and therefore wallow for days in the most repulsive filth. Thus humans rot away, and give off odours as of dead bodies before life is extinct. Even those who become insane under the stress of this fearful suffering and solitude are not treated any better. They are strapped down and beaten with the knout. All night their fierce yell resounds through the prison, and their number is daily increasing, as is also that of the suicides. The writer cannot give all the names, but he mentions Ississ as having completely lost his reason, and Mademoiselle Terentieva, who died in a mysterious manner. It is said that she was outraged and then poisoned so as to hide the crime, the doctor certifying that the chemist gave the poison by mistake; but no inquiry has been instituted or blame inflicted." Another lady is now dying of phthisis, contracted in this prison. Some of the prisoners are kept in underground cells, where a ray of sunlight never enters, where offensive water comes through the walls, and fungus grows on all sides. Here lived Kivitskoff, Priemovich, and Sachanov, before they were hanged. In these dungeons the rats are the worst enemies, and yet it is one of these cells that Mademoiselle Dakimova and her infant child are now confined. Day and night this lady has to watch and fight, so that the rats would not devour her baby. There is little to go the that she can eat, yet she has fed her child, and in spite of all, has not lost courage. The treatment is arranged so as to incense the prisoners. The body is soon bent and deprived of its strength, the face puffed out, the limbs tremble, and the eyes, affected by the gloom and the atmosphere, are so diseased that they can hardly be opened. The prisoners being deprived of sleep, their bodies are soon covered with lice of all kinds. Lice are also forbidden, and it is fortunate that the males are shaved. But as the woman retains her hair for years without it being combed or brushed, they are literally devoured by lice. The men die in this respect with their heads, which are not cut off, nor are they even allowed to die. The only good thing about the prison is the clothes of the prisoners. These were selected some 50 years ago for ordinary criminals, and are well suited to resist the damp and cold. The hope that such suffering may be of use to the cause alone enables the prisoners to keep heart. The writer feels convinced that his persecutors dare not despatch the prisoners. "This," he says, "we feel, even in the depth of our prison, and this we clearly perceive when we meet people of the administration. For this very reason the higher officials avoid the prisoners as much as possible, the inspector sees them rarely, and the governor of the fortress never. Thus they are left to the mercy of the soldiers and jailors, who are only kind to unconvicted prisoners, from whom money can be obtained. They never speak to those who are sentenced, and refuse even to mention the day or date. Sometimes, in the night, the Procurator Mousavitch enters a cell to question a prisoner and to see the victim who refuses to sell himself to the Government. Torture is in some form, is sure to await a recalcitrant witness, but the temptation to obtain some relaxation of prison discipline, though so great, rarely succeeds in producing revelations. The exercise is taken in a yard protected by five walls, the prisoners walking in Indian file, with jailors in front and gendarmes behind. If a prisoner chance to look in any particular direction, a gendarme will at once search to see if he can find anything. The cells are also minutely examined, and the dust and dirt turned over, not to be words.—San Francisco Post.

carried away, but for fear something might be concealed underneath. To cough very loud or to strike the walls of the cell is to be denied the pleasure of exercise. Towards the end of this very lengthy letter, the writer makes a special appeal to the civilised world on behalf of the women, who situation is far worse than that of the men. The jailors are depicted as showing no scruples. Under the pretence of searching the women, they often cause them to be stripped naked in the presence of a body of gendarmes, and this has been done even at seasons when such exposure was especially painful to them. Though the jailors are forbidden to enter any cell unaccompanied by gendarmes, cases of violation are not rare. Though condemned to hard labour the prisoners have absolutely nothing to do, and are driven mad by their solitude. Even the Bible is denied them. The letter concludes with a few very few pathetic sentences. The writer looks upon the documents as his last will and testament, and expresses his fervent hope that on the triumph of the Revolution no effort will be made to avenge his memory on his enemies. He trusts the Revolution will distinguish itself by its humanity; and only asks that the penalty of solitary confinement, like the torments of the Middle Ages, shall ever be abolished.

GOOD TEMPLARS AND MINCE PIES. It is very appropriate that just as the holidays are approaching, the mince pie should be vindicated from the untrue accusations under which it has laboured. Good mince pies cannot be made without brandy, but that for reasons they have been shunned by temperance people, who have supposed they would be doing wrong to eat anything into the composition of which alcohol presumably entered. A professor of chemistry now avises to remark that the evaporating point of alcohol is much below the temperature of a bake-oven, and that hence there cannot be any alcohol in the pie after it is cooked. All that remains of the brandy are some essential oils, which give taste and smell to the mixture. This is a very convincing explanation and comes just in time to enable Good Templars to eat their brandy mince pies on Christmas Day without fear of being taxed as an offence.

ENGLISH GIPSY TRIBES.

An application for medical attendance, &c., has been made to the relieving officer of the Necatur Union under extraordinary circumstances. It is a fact in Coton parish three gypsies have for the last six weeks lived in a rude hut they have erected. Their names are Joseph Holland, aged 32, his wife, 27, and his brother, 33. They belong to one of the oldest tribes in England, their family having for 500 or 600 years led a wandering life. Dr. Tomlinson has visited the woman, and a few necessaries have been supplied to the strange trio, who are utterly destitute, but refuse to enter the workhouses. Holland, who says that they have camped out in 32 English counties, is proud of his descent, his father having lived to a hundred years, and his grandfather a year longer.

A TOUCHING EXPERIENCE. A well-known fellow citizen now prowling—not to say growing—through Europe, writes the following touching experience:—"I had been for half an hour, he says, sitting on the deck of one of the miserable little 'packets' that ply between Dover and Calais, and exasperating my fellow passengers by refusing to join in the carnival of sickness going on around me; when a ruddy-faced, white-whiskered, bluff-looking individual, who had been eying me for some time, stopped up, and said:—'Beg pardon, I'm sure; but are you really the American?' 'The American?' I replied; 'there are several, I believe.' 'Oh, of course,' he said; 'I mean the one on board.' I saw George B. Blank, San Francisco, California, U.S.A., painted on some of the baggage, and I picked you out right away as the owner.' And the stranger inspected me from head to foot with a vivid curiosity as if I'd been a wild man of the woods. 'Well,' I finally exclaimed, 'I am an American. What can I do for you?' 'What—nothing—that is all,' he said, rubbing his hands as though he had indeed met a rascally churl. 'Ever scalped by the Indians?' 'I think not,' I replied. 'You've sampled some of them, though, haven't you?' persisted my inquisitor. Concluding that inasmuch as I was in for being made a side show of, I might as well indulge in some of the circus poster sort of thing, I looked my questioner calmly in the eyes and replied, 'Some twenty-six or seven; I have the tally marked by the hand of my other scalping-knife. I carry only one bovie in this country. So seldom one runs across any fun over here for breakfast times. A fellow is only allowed to run round promenade-like four months in the year. So it's hard to keep one's hand in, don't you?' 'Well, I declare!' 'Oh, what a relief! How about Chinamen? They're all the same all the year round—when we kill Chinamen all the year round—when they're fat,' I explained. 'But then, there is really some sort of an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to shoot a pigtail unless he is on the star side of the street unless it gets in your way. Folks are getting too internally particular over that for a fact.' 'Ever been divorced?' finally said the stranger, whose eyes were now sticking out like pins on a pin-cushion. 'None, thank God, I have,' I said to him. 'I have to, however, be married again when I passed Chicago on my way over, but the train only stopped eleven minutes, and there wasn't time enough to rush it through—takes twenty-two minutes to change the orders for the book that he had so conveniently got rid of. A rascacious stateswoman would have kept all the eggs, and a Quixotic statesman would have kept only one of them. But it is Prince Bismarck's peculiar distinction to combine avarice with a desire to share with his companions. But forsooth the mathematical difficulty which would arise if he were to attempt an equal division, he took the precaution to eat two of the two himself first, and then dashed off to his comrades, and with a great show of magnanimity made a fair distribution of the remaining three, keeping to himself all knowledge of the two that he had so conveniently got rid of. A rascacious stateswoman would have kept all the eggs, and a Quixotic statesman would have kept only one of them. But it is Prince Bismarck's peculiar distinction to combine avarice with a desire to share with his companions. But forsooth the mathematical difficulty which would arise if he were to attempt an equal division, he took the precaution to eat two of the two himself first, and then dashed off to his comrades, and with a great show of magnanimity made a fair distribution of the remaining three, keeping to himself all knowledge of the two that he had so conveniently got rid of. 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